



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
OFFICE OF THE
Attorney General
STATE CAPITOL
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

BRUCE E. BABBITT
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 28, 1978

LAW LIBRARY
ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL

Senator Boyd Tenney
State Capitol
Senate Wing
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: 78-81 (R78-114)

Dear Senator Tenney:

In your letter of April 18, 1978 you requested an opinion from us in regard to a matter confronting Eugene N. Marten publisher of the Verde Independent. We respectfully decline your opinion request.

The Attorney General's statutory duty to render written opinions is found in A.R.S. §41-193A.7. It provides:

" . . . the department shall:

* * * * *

7. Upon demand by the legislature or either house thereof, any public officer of the state or a county attorney, render a written opinion upon any question of law relating to their offices."

Without determining whether or not a member of the state legislature is a public officer within the purview of the above quoted statute, it is clear that Mr. Marten's legal question is not one relating to the office of a state legislator. While we understand the need for legislators to assist their constituents, to have the Attorney General render legal opinions which benefit private individuals is improper.

Very truly yours,

JOHN A. LaSOTA, JR.
Attorney General

JAL:ABC